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Project Office

Vol 1

Project Office is a design and research collaboration of staff and students. It is an architecture consultancy concerned with ethical, social and resilient architecture and design. We work with like-minded communities, organisations and individuals.

/ OUR MOTIVATION

Project Office's dual activities are education and enterprise. Our key motivations demonstrate both our ethical principles and how to occupy a space concurrently within the academic institution and architecture practice. Our motivations go to eleven; it's one louder than ten.

- Using architecture ethically
- The imperative of Environmentally Resilient Closed Loop Design
- Participatory design with students and collaborators
- Working with stakeholders who have no viable alternative to realise their projects
- Embedding research activity into our practice
- Providing opportunities for student engagement with a range of educational and formative experiences
- Complying with ARB/RIBA criteria and EU directives
- Evolving architectural pedagogies
- Doing and making architecture
- Having fun
- Advocating an inspiring experience for all collaborators





/ NEW WORTLEY

New Wortley Community Centre is in urgent need of additional space. The proposal for a new multi-purpose building will contain community led commercial functions (café/laundrette/shop and meeting room) that will enable the centre to expand its reach and sustain itself in the future. The existing building will be transformed into a function hall.

The project has developed following Vahagn Mkrtchyan's winning design for the in house design competition in 2010. With the assistance of students undertaking community consultation the Stage 2 Reaching Communities Big Lottery application was submitted in October 2013. A decision on capital funding is expected imminently and if successful our first substantial building will be completed in 2015.







/ ARC LIGHT_ORWIN HOUSE

The live project was to re-design and conversion of an outdated semi-detached house into a fit-for-purpose accommodation and support facility for clients drawn from a variety of socially-disadvantaged groups.

For many years Orwin House has provided a stable, safe and supportive home for up to 7 men and women with alcohol issues, the majority ex-street drinkers. It has been a huge achievement in maintaining this facility for a group of vulnerable people. ArcLight's focus is not 'maintenance' but quality of life.

Working closely with ArcLight and the residents a variety of designs were presented by students to enable stakeholders to envision possible adaptations to their home.

In Bruno Latour's terms, critical attention is shifted from architecture as a matter of fact to architecture as a matter of concern. As matters of fact, buildings can be treated as objects on their own terms. As matters of concern, they enter into socially embedded networks, in which the consequences of architecture are of much more significance than the objects of architecture.



Image by Josh Boydell-Smith & Joe Walton for Bauman Lyons Architects.

/ OLD CHAPEL STUDIOS

The Old Chapel Studios is a rehearsal studio in Holbeck and required a new build community classroom for meetings and classes.

This live project started as collaboration between Old Chapel Studios, Bauman Lyons Architects and students, with students producing a vast range of design proposals in a week long studio competition. Karl Braidwood and Charles Ryan-Hicks' shortlisted shipping container proposal helped shape the actual project. The students of the winning entry were invited by the Architect to produce the visualisation for the planning application. Our input ended at this point but the project was recently completed by adaptation of portacabins instead of containers.

/ BASEMENTARTSPROJECT

A sustainable environment for the production, display and promotion of art. The project was designed to have two integrated but separable elements, one being the redesign of the basement in a occupied terraced house and the other being the ‘what if’ re-imagining of an adjacent area of amenity space.

The project involved BA2 and BA3 students and lasted for two weeks from the point of inception to presentation. Students were divided into eight groups and the project was organised as a competition with awards for the top four sets of designs. The design work is being used by BasementArtsProject to commence fund-raising to the next phase.



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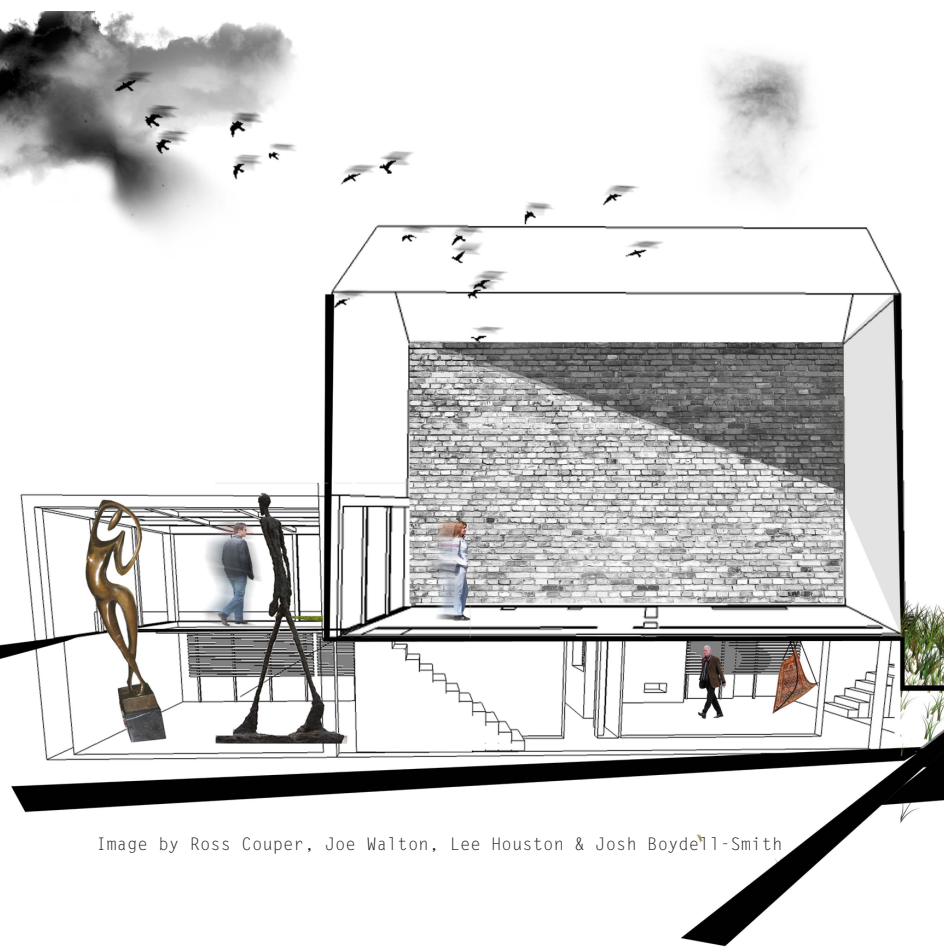


Image by Ross Couper, Joe Walton, Lee Houston & Josh Boydell-Smith



Cities have the
capability of
providing something
for everybody,
only because, and
only when, they
are created by
everybody.



Photo by Phil Khorassandjian

/ HOUSE OF HOPE HAITI

The challenge was to help House of Hope Children's Centre who were at the very earliest stages of considering how to rebuild their orphanage following the Haiti earthquake in 2010.

Students produced four sophisticated and detailed thesis projects as part of their design studio course work. The only commitment we were entitled to make at this time was to offer our work as a means for the client and supporters to raise money and awareness.

'The work that the students produced did help in some small measure - in concept and confidence building if not in the detail of the proposals. House of Hope (has) managed to purchase some land and, with help from Friends of HOH, build a couple of "transitional shelters" as a starter.'

Phil Khorassandjian





Image by Andrew Pye, Tom Woodcock, Alex Durie & Michael Townsend

/ GARDEN GATE HUNSLET

A project for Leeds Brewery to redesign their toilet facilities at the Grade 2* listed public house in Hunslet, Leeds. For pedagogical reasons the project was augmented by a speculative exercise to re-imagine the building as a community focus.

The re-worked public house could have the addition of a community cinema, a cider tower, 'heaven and hell' village hall or a music venue . . . as well as new toilets. All proposals are linked to our Hunslet Urban Framework project.



Image by Daniel Wallace, Jason Yeung, Neil Graham & Andy Clapham



Tea Shop Community Consultation day

/ HUNSLET URBAN FRAMEWORK

This is a self initiated project. Whilst engaging with the Garden Gate project we noticed that this beautiful pub's immediate environment was a desolate street that we discovered used to be the high street and centre of the Hunslet community but has been dismantled over time.

Four urban frameworks have been produced titled Hunslet Grow, Responsive Hunslet, Handmade Hunslet and Patchwork Hunslet. The projects were presented at the Garden Gate to an invited audience. The next stage is to present our work formally to the local authority.



/ THE ORANGERY_BEAM

Students have produced proposals for a refined and practical work of 'demountable-permanent' architecture at The Orangery, Wakefield set within a re-imagined urbanscape.

Post Graduate students worked in three teams to design a 'demountable-permanent' building for BEAM at the Orangery. This is a space / structure that can be programmed for diverse creative activities, meeting space, and space for café/bar. BEAM intend to build a structure to be occupied from summer 2014.

/ FARESHARE

Students designed, project managed and constructed an office and staffroom structure within a food distribution warehouse for the food charity FareShare (West Yorkshire). The project was funded through donations amounting to £1500. Students pre-fabricated, assembled and installed the project over a ten week period.

Year 3 undergraduate student Antonia Frondella remarked after this 'event', "The project was fulfilling and was a definite highlight of my university career experience". This project will be a case study in the book *Architecture Live Projects: Pedagogy into Practice* ed Harriet Harriiss and Lynnette Widder (Routledge) in 2014.



A life spent
making mistakes
is not only more
honourable, but
more useful than a
life spent doing
nothing.



/ WHO WE ARE

SIMON WARREN

Co-Founder of the Project Office

I am interested in the role of the Architect. How do Architects practice with ethical grace and respond to climate change and energy depletion imperatives? How do Architects use their skills to make a difference to the lives of more people? By thinking about the strategic urban design of the city and understanding the resources within communities the city can become more adaptive, resilient, egalitarian and coherent. I am currently working towards a PhD, the working title is 'Live Project Pedagogy - Architecture in the Making'.

CRAIG STOTT

Co-Founder of the Project Office

My desire is to develop resilient communities through the instigation of zero waste and carbon positive closed loop design processes. The notion draws inspiration from our surroundings to drive architectural responses that are ecologically, economically and socially sustainable for everyone. Known as ecological urbanism, this holistic approach enables us to create socially inclusive environments to the benefit of all.

ANDREW PYE

Graduate Architecture Co-ordinator

I believe architecture should be used as a tool for social, environmental and technological change. People, culture and context are integral to all good design. As designers, we are presented with exciting opportunities to address pressing local and global environmental issues with each new design. My passion for humanitarian design has stemmed from taking part in a volunteering project constructing a wind turbine for a small coastal village in The Gambia.

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